

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Monica Simon

DATE: March 2, 2001

RE: Educational Attainment of Adult Mental Health Clients

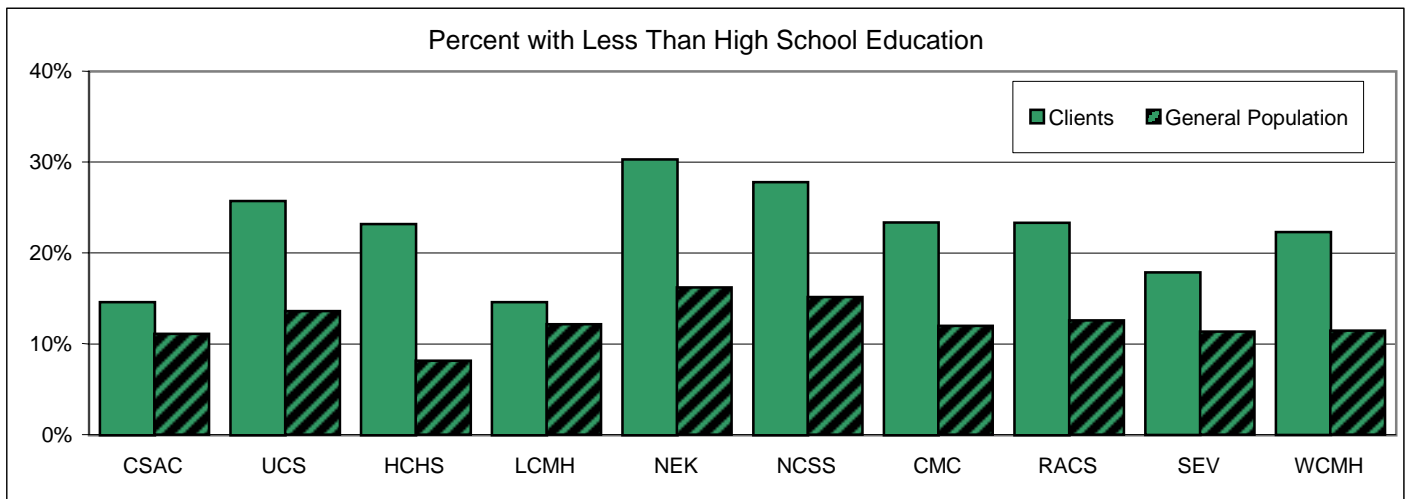
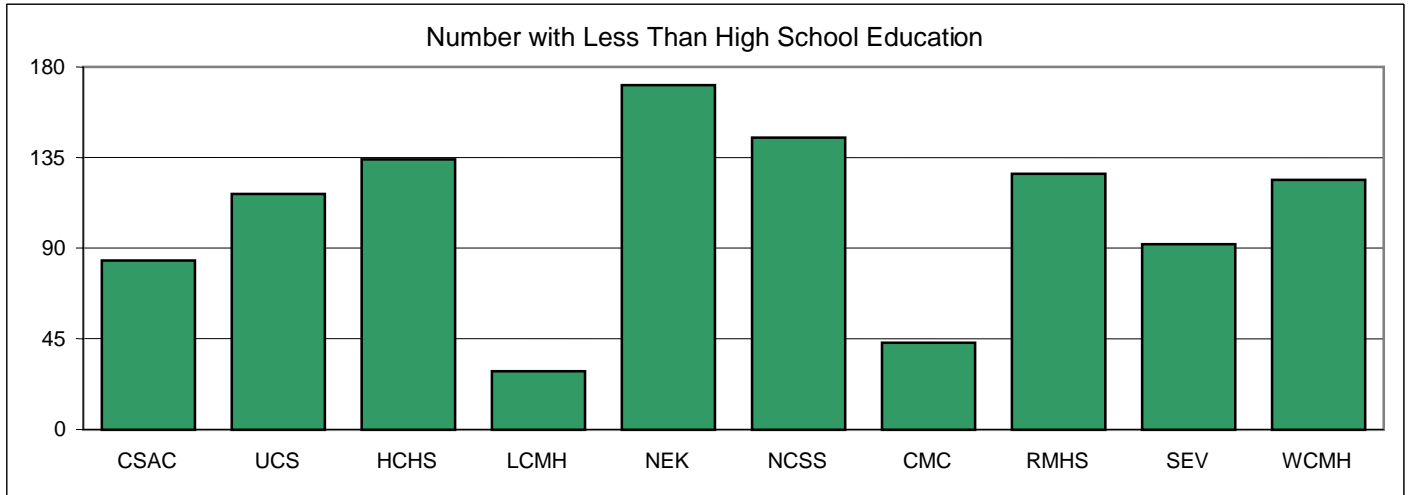
Educational attainment is widely recognized as an important indicator of functional performance for children and adolescents. It is also an important indicator of life chances for adults. The attached table presents information on the educational attainment of clients of Adult Mental Health Outpatient programs in each of our ten service areas, and the educational attainment of members of the general population in each of those same areas. Because county level information on the educational attainment of adults has not been published since the 1990 census, we started with those estimates and then adjusted them based on published statewide data on the educational attainment of adults in Vermont that is available for both 1990 and 2000. For purposes of analysis, adults over 25 years of age were characterized as having or not having completed high school. The attached table presents the results of that analysis.

As you will see, educational attainment was not recorded for a considerable proportion of clients. Four of the providers have a reported education level for less than 80% of clients served.

On average, clients of all Adult Outpatient Programs were more likely to have lower educational attainment than other residents of their service area. Overall, 23% of Adult Outpatient clients and 12% of the general population have less than a high school education. The difference is greatest in Chittenden County where 23% of the clients had less than a high school education while only 8% of the general population of the County had less than a high school education. The difference was smallest in Addison County where 15% of the clients and 11% of the general population did not complete high school and Lamoille County where 15% of clients and 12% of the general population did not complete high school.

We look forward to your interpretation of this overall pattern and of the observed differences between service areas. Please send your comments to jpandiani@ddmhs or call 802-241-2638.

**Adult Mental Health Outpatient Programs
Clients with Less Than a High School Education
By Region: Vermont FY 2000**



Region/Provider	Total Number Clients	Missing Data	Total Usable Clients	Percent Usable Clients	Education		
					Clients Less than HS	Percent Less than HS	
						Clients	General Population
Addison - CSAC	598	22	576	96%	84	15%	11%
Bennington - UCS	596	141	455	76%	117	26%	14%
Chittenden - HCHS	846	269	577	68%	134	23%	8%
Lamoille - LCMH	226	27	199	88%	29	15%	12%
Northeast - NEK	611	47	564	92%	171	30%	16%
Northwest - NCSS	565	43	522	92%	145	28%	15%
Orange - CMC	231	47	184	80%	43	23%	12%
Rutland - RMHS	763	218	545	71%	127	23%	13%
Southeast - SEV	962	447	515	54%	92	18%	11%
Washington - WCMH	697	141	556	80%	124	22%	11%
Statewide	610	140	469	77%	107	23%	12%

Client numbers are based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated Community Service Providers. Population percentages are calculated by adjusting the county education counts according to the 1990 census with the rate of increase in education for the state according to the 2000 census.